

Asthma Educator Initiative



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Montana Asthma Control Program (MACP) works to support interested individuals in successfully passing the exam to become a certified asthma educator (AE-C). To become certified, a person must have met certain education and experience requirements that qualify them to deliver scientifically-sound and consistent asthma care and self-management education by passing the exam. According to the National Asthma Educator Certification Board (NAECB) website, an AE-C is “an expert in counseling individuals with asthma and their families on how to manage their asthma and minimize its impact on their quality of life.”

Since beginning this program, the number of AE-Cs in Montana has risen from 8 to over 40.

The goals of this program are to:

- Increase the knowledge and skills of asthma care team members to provide high quality asthma self-management education (ASME) to patients;
- Enhance ASME services in Montana; and
- Demonstrate positive return-on-investment for providing quality ASME to patients with asthma in Montana.

PROGRAM BENEFITS

The MACP offers the following resources to help you prepare for the exam:

- Access to a lending library of up-to-date study materials;
- Connecting people with mentors who are current AE-Cs;
- An annual educational course through the Association of Asthma Educators (AAE); and
- Potential for scholarships.

ASTHMA IN MONTANA

Many asthma patients in Montana do not receive evidence-based health care or education to learn how to self-manage their disease. Nearly half of adults and one third of children with asthma in Montana have uncontrolled asthma. Only 40% of Montana adults and 56% of children with asthma reported having received at least 3 of the 5 recommended pieces of asthma self-management education (ACBS 2006-2010).

RESOURCES

Visit these websites for more information:

<http://dphhs.mt.gov/asthma>

<https://www.naecb.com>

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Health Care Focus

Asthma

Target Audience

- Health care providers
- Social workers
- Community health education specialists

Continuing Education

Yes, from attending annual AAE course

Cost

- Free to participate in the lending library or mentorship opportunity
- \$50 fee for annual AAE course for most participants
- \$295 fee for taking the AE-C exam, with limited chance for scholarship

Dates

Ongoing, with the annual course generally held in the spring

CONTACT

asthmainfo@mt.gov

1-844-MTHLT4U

1-844-684-5848